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1 33. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 30 wherein the data servers  
2 and the web server are software programs.

1 34. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 33 wherein the data servers  
2 and the web server both execute on the same hardware device.

1 35. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 30 wherein the event  
2 monitor is a customizable software program for automatically querying the data  
3 server for [telephone] transactions that meet the specified criteria.

cancelled  
Sub 57  
1 39. (ONCE AMENDED) A long distance transaction event monitor, coupled to a  
2 telephone network, for alerting a user when specified alert criteria relating to  
3 telephony transactions have been met, the event monitor comprising:

4 a web interface, for allowing a user to specify the alert criteria;

5 query logic, coupled to said web interface, for causing the specified alert criteria  
6 to query the telephony transactions, wherein the telephony transactions  
7 include information corresponding to elements of a periodically generated  
8 bill; and

9 an event monitor, coupled to said query logic, for generating alert messages to the  
10 user when said query logic determines that the specified alert criteria is  
11 met by the telephony transactions.

# REMARKS

1 In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-44 are pending in the application,  
and that claims 1-44 are rejected. By this amendment, claims 16, 23-26, 28-29, 31, 36,  
and 39-44 have been cancelled and claims 1-5, 14, 15, 18, 23, 27, 30, 33-35, and 39 have  
5 been amended. Thus, claims 1-15, 17-22, 27, 30, 32-35 and 37-38 are pending in the  
application.

Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application, in  
view of the foregoing amendments.

***In the Claims*****Rejections Under 35 USC 103**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 6-11, 23-24, 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Buscher et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,506,893) in view of *Cave* (U.S. Patent No. 5,958,014). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

With respect to claim 1, it is repeated below, as amended, for ease of reference:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) An apparatus for presenting, and monitoring telecommunication transaction records for a plurality of differing communication devices via a thin web client interface, the apparatus comprising:
  - 10 a billing server, configured to receive telecommunication transaction information associated with the plurality of differing communication devices, and configured to translate said telecommunication transaction information into one of a plurality of telecommunication transaction records, said plurality of telecommunication transaction records being elements of a user account bill, said billing server also configured to query said plurality of telecommunication transaction records in response to a request for prescribed data; and
  - 15 a web server, coupled to said billing server, configured to provide said telecommunication transaction information to said billing server, to request said prescribed data in response to a user command via the thin web client interface, and to provide said prescribed data to the user;
  - 20 wherein said prescribed data distinguishes between telecommunication transaction information associated with a first one of the plurality of differing communication devices, and a second one of the plurality of differing communication devices.
- 25

The Examiner stated that *Buscher* teaches an apparatus for presenting and monitoring telecommunication transaction records, comprising a billing server; a server (call detail

data system); and a user. The Examiner further states that the prescribed data distinguishes between a first and a second telecommunication records due to the fact that the request from the user must be unique ... The Examiner further states that Buscher further teaches that the billing server is configured to receive telecommunication transaction information, and is configured to translate the telecommunication information into a plurality of telecommunication transaction records, the records being elements of a user account bill. The Examiner finally states that although Buscher does not teach the system utilized in the Internet environment, it would have been obvious to do so in view of Cave.

10 Applicant respectfully submits that although Buscher does illustrate (particularly in Figure 1) a system where telephone records are recorded through a billing center 260, and placed into a call detail data system 400 that is accessible to a user terminal 300 via a data connection 401, Buscher's system is only capable of providing a user with billing information of which it is aware. That is, Buscher's billing center is only tied to telecommunication device(s) S1 that he provides to the user. Buscher does not show, teach, or otherwise suggest any apparatus or method for providing billing information to the user for telecommunication services that are provided by other telecommunication entities, e.g., cell phone companies, pager companies, fax service bureaus, etc., much less data communication companies such as Internet Service Providers (ISPs). One of the reasons is that a company using Buscher's invention would most likely not have ready access to the billing records of other telecommunications providers. Most likely, the other providers would consider a company using Buscher a competitor, and would not want to disclose their billing records to such a company. Moreover, each telecommunications company stores their transaction records in their own format, according to their own needs. A phone company might, for example, track date, time of call, duration (in minutes) whereas a pager company might track time of page, and size of message transferred. Buscher's call detail data system does not anticipate, or appreciate, that differing telecommunication devices require alternative transaction details that are particular to the device or service being provided. Nothing in Buscher appreciates such disparate transaction data between different types of telecommunication devices, much less between different providers of telecommunication services. Moreover, nothing in

Buscher appreciates such disparate transaction data being extended to data network services from providers such as ISPs.

In contrast, Applicant's invention utilizes a central billing system that accesses transaction details from disparate devices, such as a telephone, a fax, a pager, and a  
5 modem coupled to a data network, provided by multiple telecommunication entities, such as phone companies, fax service bureaus, pager companies, and ISPs. Applicant has written translators to interface to all of these multiple telecommunication entities, for all of the disparate telecommunications (and data) devices. So, once configured, a user has access to all of his/her telecommunication transaction records from all configured entities  
10 (telephone, long distance, fax, modem, ISP), within a centralized billing system, that has a common interface. The user can search across multiple billing entities for reporting, and can obtain a consolidated bill across multiple disparate telecommunications entities, for different telecommunications devices. Nothing in Buscher teaches, suggests, or even hints at such features.

15 More specifically, claim 1 as amended recites an apparatus for monitoring transaction records for a plurality of differing communication devices. Applicant's billing server is configured to receive transaction information from differing communication devices and to translate this information into transaction records that are provided in response to a query. Applicant further teaches that the transaction information distinguishes between a  
20 first differing communication device and a second differing communication device. The first billing device might be a telephone, the second billing device might be a pager. Nothing in Buscher suggests such an apparatus. For all of these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of this claim.

With respect to claims 2 and 6-11, these depend from claim 1 and add further limitations  
25 that are neither anticipated nor obviated by Buscher, taken alone or in combination with Cave. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of these claims.

With respect to claim 23, it is repeated below, as amended, for ease of reference:

23. (TWICE AMENDED) An apparatus for accessing selected telecommunications records associated with a plurality of different telecommunication devices, over the internet from a user computer that is executing a web browser application, said apparatus comprising:

5 a billing server, for maintaining telecommunications records, and for providing the selected telecommunications records in response to a user request, said billing server comprising:

data base logic, for storing said telecommunications records, wherein a first of the selected telecommunications records corresponds to a first of the plurality of different telecommunication devices, and a second of the selected telecommunications records corresponds to a second of the plurality of telecommunications devices; and

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query logic, for searching said telecommunications records in accordance with parameters prescribed by said user request, and for retrieving the selected telecommunications records; and

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a web server, coupled to said billing server, for receiving said user request over the internet, and for providing the selected telecommunications records for the plurality of different telecommunication devices to the user computer over the internet.

20 The Examiner stated that Buscher teaches an apparatus for accessing selected telecommunications records over the Internet from a user computer, the apparatus comprising a billing server with database logic, for storing telecommunications records where each of the records documents a specific telecommunications event, corresponding to a particular user account, to generate an account bill.

25 However, as explained above, nothing in Buscher suggests or even hints at the novel idea of tracking, storing and presenting telecommunication transaction details from disparate telecommunication devices, from different telecommunication entities. Claim 23 particularly recites an apparatus for accessing selected telecommunications records from

a plurality of different telecommunications devices, comprising a billing server comprising data base logic for storing first records for a first different device and second records for a second different device. Nothing in Buscher illustrates, teaches, or otherwise shows record tracking and presentation of transaction records for different devices. For these reasons, and for those stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of this claim.

With respect to claim 24, it depends from claim 23 and adds further limitations that are neither anticipated nor obviated by Buscher in view of Cave. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of this claim.

With respect to claim 27, it is repeated below, as amended, for ease of reference:

27. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for providing access to telecommunications billing records in a billing computer over the internet, the telecommunications billing records associated with charges from a plurality of telecommunication entities for a plurality of different telecommunication devices, the access being obtained via a remote computer that is executing a thin web client application, the method comprising:

- a) maintaining the telecommunications billing records in a data base, the telecommunications billing records documenting individual telecommunication charges for each of the plurality of telecommunication entities for each of the plurality of different telecommunication devices;
- b) querying the data base in accordance with parameters provided by a completed search parameter entry web page; and
- c) transmitting a search results web page to display the telecommunications billing records on the remote computer for each of the plurality of telecommunication entities.

Claim 27 particularly recites a method for providing access to telecommunications billing records over the internet, where the records are associated with charges from different telecommunications entities, for different telecommunications devices, where the records are maintained in a database that documents charges for each of the different entities, for each of the different devices, where querying of the database is provided, and where the results of the query are provided on a web page to display billing records for each of the telecommunications entities. Nothing in Buscher teaches, suggests, or otherwise hints as such data maintenance, querying or display, across multiple entities and devices. For these reasons, and for those stated above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of this claim.

With respect to claims 28-29, these have been cancelled, rendering the Examiner's rejections moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-5, 14-20 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buscher et al (5,506,893) in view of Cave (5,958,014) as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Jagadish et al. (6,058,170).

The Examiner stated that Jagadish teaches a transaction record which includes a specific place called, a specific account number, and a specific transaction cost.

With respect to claims 3-5, these depend from claim 1 and add further limitations that are neither anticipated nor obviated by Buscher, in view of Cave and Jagadish. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of these claims.

With respect to claim 14, it is repeated below, as amended, for ease of reference:

14. (TWICE AMENDED) An interactive telecommunications billing mechanism, comprising:

a billing server, for maintaining a transaction data base, and for querying said transaction data base to retrieve selected transaction records that match parameters of a query, wherein said selected transaction records

correspond to billing entries for differing telecommunication devices provided to a user by different telecommunication entities;; and

5 a web server, coupled to said billing server, for providing said query in response to a user command received from a data network, and for transmitting said selected transaction records to the user over said data network for viewing via a web browser.

Claim 14 as amended particularly recites a billing server for querying a database to retrieve transaction records corresponding to billing entries for differing telecommunication devices provided to a user by different telecommunication entities, and a web server for providing the query to a data network and for transmitting selected records to a user over the data network. As mentioned above, nothing in Buscher teaches, suggests or otherwise hints at having a billing server with a database that stores transaction records for entries corresponding to differing telecommunication devices provided by different telecommunication entities, the result of queries provided to a user by a web server. For these reasons, and for those stated above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of this claim.

20 With respect to claims 15, and 17-20, these depend from claim 14 and add further limitations that are neither anticipated nor obviated by Buscher, in view of Cave and Jagadish. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of these claims.

With respect to claim 16, it has been cancelled, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

25 The Examiner rejected claims 12-13, 25-26 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buscher in view of Cave as applied to claims 1, 6-11, 23-24 above, and further in view of Syeda-Mahmood (5,983,218).

Syeda-Mahmood relates to ODBC compatible query.



Claims 12-13 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations that are neither anticipated nor obviated by Buscher in view of Cave, and further in view of Syeda-Mahmood. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of these claims.

- 5 With respect to claims 25-26, these have been cancelled thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 21-22 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buscher in view of Cave and Jagadish as applied to claims 14-20 above and further in view of Syeda-Mahmood.

- 10 Claims 21-22 depend from claim 14 and add further limitations that are neither anticipated nor obviated by Buscher in view of Cave, in view of Syeda-Mahmood, for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 14. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of these claims.

- 15 The Examiner rejected claims 30-36, 39 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buscher in view of Cave, Jagadish and Flood (5,864,613).

- Claim 30 has been amended to depend from claim 27, and thus claims 32-35 now depend either directly or indirectly from claim 27. Claims 30, 32-35 add further limitations to claim 27 that are neither anticipated, nor obviated by Buscher in view of Cave, taken alone or together with Jagadish and Flood. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the  
20 Examiner to withdraw his rejection of these claims.

Claims 31 and 36 have been cancelled thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 37-38, 40-44 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buscher in view of Cave, Jagadish, Flood, and Moller et al (5,805,686).

- 25 Claims 37-38 now depend from claim 27 and add further limitations that are neither anticipated nor obviated by Buscher/Cave, along with Jagadish, Flood, and Moller. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of these claims.

With respect to claims 40-44, they have been cancelled thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

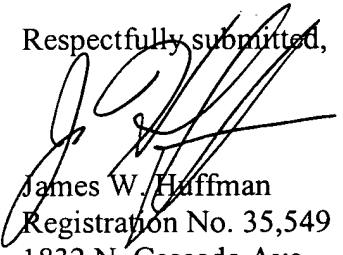
The Examiner has indicated additional prior art that is made of record and not relied upon. None of these references anticipate or obviate applicant's invention.

- 5 For all of the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-15, 17-22, 27, 30, 32-35 and 37-38 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested, and Allowance of the claims is solicited.

Applicant earnestly requests the Examiner to telephone him at the direct dial number printed below if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions concerning the  
10 application or allowance of any claims thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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James W. Huffman  
Registration No. 35,549  
1832 N. Cascade Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
20 719.475.7103  
719.623.0141 fax  
jim@huffmanlaw.net

20

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